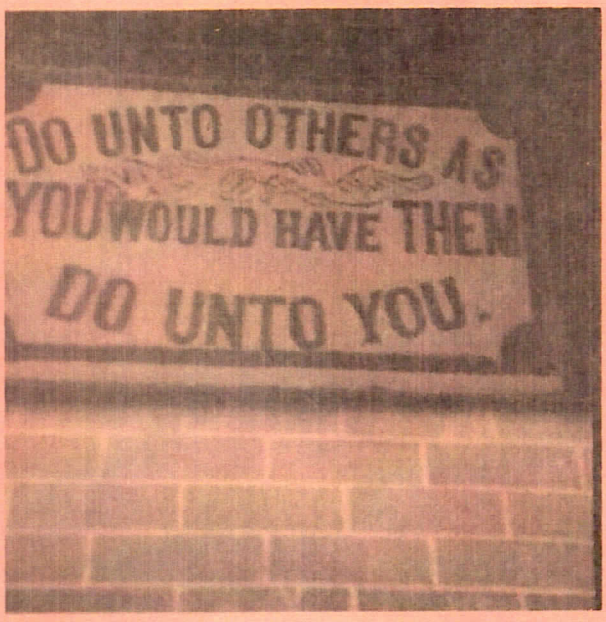
IN THE BEGINNING



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Yates Center, Kansas
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IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 4 - No. 14 April - 1971

Lester A. Harding - Editor

Editor's Notes: Many of the people and names of people mentioned in IN THE BEGINNING are not known to many of our readers, but for the most part they were people who had something to do with the history or the development of Woodson County. Therefore, we believe that they have a place in this publication. It would probably take years to tell all of the events and historical facts and family histories that we would like to. Perhaps we can get quite a few of them edited. It hardly seems possible that the names of very prominent people of the county could so completely disappear except on old records and newspapers.

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Around 1912, a certain superintendent of the Yates Center schools did not believe that girls should play basketball so he refused to allow it in the schools. So a group of girls—some high school and some out of school—organized a girls basketball team. Note the fancy uniforms. The EOW on the uniforms was the name they called themselves. It stood for Enough Of W_____ , which evidently stood for the superintendent.

The girls in the picture, left to right are: Lea Phillips, Getty Smith Matthews, Gussie Schlichting, Mary Nanninga, Amy Rockwell Schaefer, and Edna Simons. A substitute player not in the picture was Ruth Augustine.

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IN THE BEGINNING
Published Quarterly By
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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

The 6th annual meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held at Piqua, Kansas, on Tuesday, January 26, 1971, with a dinner meeting. There were 101 persons present. The Rev. I. J. Rohr gave the program.

The Nominating Committee, Mrs. Avis Ireland, Chairman, Mrs. Ora Swope and Mrs. Sophia Tannahill, presented the following names for the following offices, which were voted and approved.

President	Lester A. Harding 411 N. State, Yates Center
Vice President	Virgil Winfrey 111 E. Sanderson, Yates Center
2nd Vice President	Arthur Herder 110 S. Green, Yates Center
Secretary	Mrs. Helen Herring 501 E. Kansas, Yates Center
Treasurer	Elmer F. Krueger 309 W. Sanderson, Yates Center
Board of Directors Six Year Terms	Faye Hibbard, Toronto Walter A. Bowers 805 E. Madison, Yates Center

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In Memoriam

Margaret Jane Cooper	87	November 23, 1970

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Mrs. Cooper was a Charter member of the Woodson County Historical Society, but had not been able to attend very much the last few years.

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Lou A. Paske	83	December 20, 1970

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Mrs. Lou A. Paske was also a Charter member of the Woodson County Historical Society, and a regular attandant to most of the meetings.

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Leo W. Mills	71	January 13, 1971

* * * * *

Frank V. Robbins	86	April 27, 1970

* * * * *

Mr. Mills had been a member of the Historical Society for two years. Mr. Robbins had become a Life Member of the Society shortly before his passing.

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— Membership Dues to The Historical Society —

Life Membership—$25.00 $2.00 per year

SAMUEL NAYLOR FAMILY

Samuel Naylor was born near Carlyle, Pennsylvania, in 1827. He was of Swiss lineage. The story is told that a representative of the family left Switzerland to try his fortune in America. He sold his time for his passage to some English Quakers. The name was then spelled Warchler, but as he was unable to speak his name so the Quaker family could understand it they called him Nailer. One version of this name was that he was always busy as a "nailer." Another was that he had been employed as a maker of nails. The name was Nailer, then Nailor, and then Naylor as it has remained.

Four generations of Naylors resided in Pennsylvania. The father of Samuel was George Nailor. He also had a brother George, who has many descendants left in Woodson County.

In October, 1846, Samuel Naylor was married to Miss Anna Albert, who was also a native of Pennsylvania. After a few years they moved to Ohio, and later to Illinois. Samuel Naylor was a wagon maker and continued this trade where ever he went. He was also a successful carpenter.

In 1869, with his family, they moved to Woodson County, taking a claim on Duck Creek, nine miles north and a mile and three quarters west from Yates Center. The trip from Illinois to Woodson County was made by covered wagon.

Their children were: George, Samuel, John, Silas, Grant, Cassie, Martha, Rebecca, and Hancie. Grant was a baby when the trip was made.

Samuel Naylor and wife Anna Naylor

The homestead of the Samuel Naylor family was the west half of the southwest quarter of section 28-23-15, with Duck Creek running through the north end of the 80.

Here he continued the carpenter trade. The year after his arrival here he built the District No. 1 schoolhouse. In 1872 Naylor built the large two story house on the Baldwin Ranch along Turkey Creek, a mile east of the Naylor home. This old house was torn down to make way for a new one when Arthur Stockebrand bought the place. After several years on the farm the Naylors moved to Yates Center that had built up after they came here. The various Naylor families had much to do with the building and growth of the town.

Of the children of Samuel and Anna Naylor, we will tell about some of them. George Naylor was married to Miss Alice Miller from along upper Turkey Creek. They had no children. George first homesteaded 80 acres in Liberty township. Six years later he sold that farm and purchased some land on Brazel Creek north of Toronto. Here they accumulated several hundred acres of land.

Silas was born in 1860 in Rock Island County, Ill., and came to Kansas when 9 years old. In 1883 he was married to Miss Maggie M. Taylor. They had four children, Edith L., who married Frank Woodruff, Claude H., Muriel A., who married Wesley Beine, and Johnnie L.

Samuel moved to California years ago. We have nothing about him.

John Naylor was married to Mary Withers. Their children were: three sons, Harrison R. (Harry), Charles Samuel, John William; daughters, Frances (Williams), Hattie, who married Charles Louke, Alice, who married Asa Mecum, and Nellie Jane.

Grant was married to Alice Baldwin. Their children were: Dorothy, Lois (Mize), Jessie, who married James Harding, and Edward.

Cassie was married to Ed Mead. They had a son, Elmo.

Hancie was married to _____ Van Voorhis. Children were Lonnie and Jeanie. She was later married to A. J. Jones.

Martha was married to George Miller. Their children were Frankie (Mrs. Ed Simpson), Bert, Fannie and Belle (Probst).

Like many other prominent families who helped in the building of Yates Center and Woodson County, the name of Naylor that was very popular for many years is fast disappearing in the town they helped to build. Many houses, barns, business places and other buildings were built by the different Naylors.

* * * * *

FIRST RAILROADS

The first attempts of railroads to get into Woodson County always seemed to run into difficulty. As Neosho Falls was the main town in the county for several years the attempt was to draw it through there.

What was to be the first railroad to cross any part of Woodson County had its beginning in 1865. However the first stockholders meeting was held at Emporia on February 13, 1866. The railroad to be built at that time was known as the Union Pacific Southern Branch. On March 2, 1866, the first meeting of the board of directors was held at Council Grove. Nathabiel S. Goss of Neosho Falls was elected as vice-president and made president pro tem. At this meeting Goss reported that this branch had been named a participating beneficiary in a bill passed February 3, 1866, entitled, "An Act Providing for the sale of Public Lands to Aid in the Construction of Certain Railroads."

On September 5, 1886, "the erection of the initial stone" which was to be the cornerstone of the future Katy at Junction City, where the new railroad was to have its beginning. Speeches were made by N. S. Goss and others who were not too well pleased with the progress of the company. On October 15, President Goss turned over the first spadeful of earth to help fulfill the dreams of the people that lived along the Neosho Valley. However nothing much was done until 1869 when the actual construction was started.

In September, 1869, Director N. S. Goss, former president of the company and now acting as Land Commissioner, was removed from his office and replaced by Prof. Isaac T. Goodnow, who kept the office at Neosho Falls. It seems that N. S. Goss was not agreeing with the railroad officials in the building of the railway that he was once the president. He also acted as attorney for the railroad—perhaps afterward.

It was not until November, 1869, that the railroad reached Burlington, coming from Junction City, and just to the southeast of Burlington the building of the railroad seemed to come to a standstill for several reasons. Evidently dissention seemed to be within the company, for in March, 1870, the name of the railway was changed from the Union Pacific Southern to the Missouri, Kansas and Texas, (Katy) Railroad.

March, 1870, was also a poor month for the construction of the railroad, because of the extreme wet weather. The officers and contractors were riding through the sloughs and ferrying across the swollen streams. High water was interfering with work on the nearly completed bridge over Turkey Creek about five miles northwest of Neosho Falls, but the grading was done to the Falls, and the many teams of horses and mules, scrapers and haulers were moving away from the Neosho River in a straight line for Humboldt. An Irishman named John Scullin, a heavy-fisted construction boss, with his Irish crew, made up the track laying gangs. Not only were they laid up by the weather but also

by the lack of track laying materials. The track was layed by LeRoy and reached Neosho Falls on March 16, 1870, and reached Humboldt on the last day of March. Thus Neosho Falls was the end of the line for about two weeks.

It was during this time that John S. Gilmore, Sr., publisher of the Wilson County Citizen for many years, wrote in his diary: "Tues. 29th March, 1870—Closed up my business in Emporia and started to RR depot. The train from Junction City was two hours behind time and did not leave Emporia until 4 o'clock. I got a "free pass" to Neosho Falls, the end of the line track, from M. P. Cogswell, and for the first time joyously started down the Neosho River on the cars. Arrived at Burlington at 6 o'clock . . . Wed. 30th—Shall start to Neosho Falls on the 4 o'clock train. . . time dragged wearily. Lay down on lounge at 7 and was awakened at 9 o'clock by the noise of the whistle and warning thunder of the train. Seized my valise in haste and hurried to the depot. Getting into the cars I felt much easier. Finally the train dashed on and through the darkness of the night sped its way to the county of Woodson. We reached Neosho Falls and after a walk of about a mile found ourselves in the heart of the city at 11 o'clock, together with a dozen or more passengers. Put up at the Falls House which was very crowded.

Thurs. 31st—For the first time I viewed Neosho Falls from its center. Houses are all frame. Did not get any advertising. Went down to the Neosho and gazed upon its limpid waters. Here is is a much wider stream than at Emporia. At noon I started in a stage for Humboldt with four other travelers. Paid $2 for my seat. Was not as pleasant riding in the stage as it was by rail. We crossed the railroad track three times. Arrived at Humboldt about 6 o'clock—I put up at the Hiawatha House.

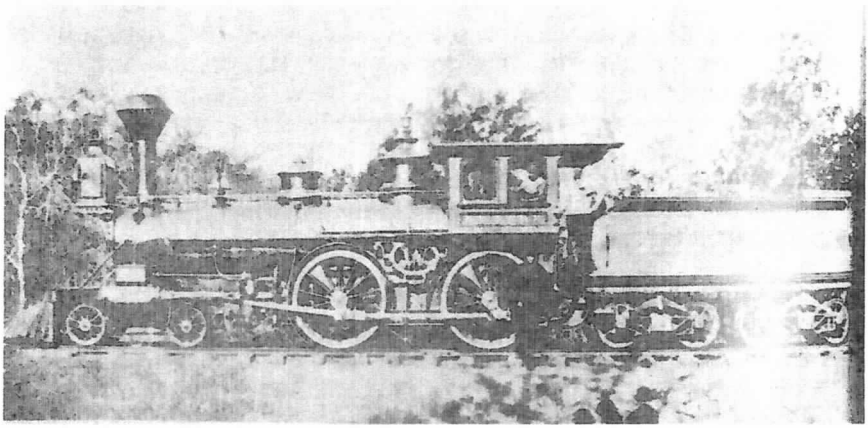
April 1st—Intended to go to Guilford today but the stage will not again make the trip in that direction until next week. Have made arrangements to go in a private conveyance tomorrow . . . Sat. 2nd—This morning I was up bright and early, anxious to get on the road for Guilford. About 8 o'clock I started in a buggy with M. E. Haas of Leavenworth. We crossed Owl Creek and traveled over a low, muddy and level tract of land, then the road gradually ascended the upland. New houses dotted the prairie on all sides, back 6 or 8 miles from the Neosho. We drove very rapidly and reached Guilford at 12 o'clock. I paid him $2.50 for my fare. Learned upon my arrival that the printing material reached Guilford in safety on Thursday last, March 31st. (Guilford was a river town a few miles down the Verdigris River from Benedict)."

It was in the early part of 1873, before the State of Kansas and the U. S. Government issued patents to the M. K. T. Railroad for several thousand acres of land in Woodson as well as other surrounding counties. The act had called for the railroad to get every other section of land for a distance of ten miles on either side of the railroad. As much

of the land along the Neosho River and some of the larger streams had already been deeded to early settlers who had settled here, there was some confusion. In Woodson County at least and possibly in other counties the railway was granted land beyond the ten miles.

Soon after the rails went through Neosho Falls the Katy railway company built a round house to the east of the depot. However the round house did not remain there very long. There was a change in the M. K. & T. division and the removal of the round house, followed by the loss of the land office in 1876, was quite a blow to Neosho Falls.

And now in 1970, just 100 years after the Katy railroad train went across the county through Neosho Falls, is about a thing of the past, as the old track has been torn up from Piqua north and west. The track from Piqua to Humboldt was purchased by the Missouri Pacific Railway and a new track was layed.



One of the old steamers used by the Katy railroad in the 1870's. It was steam engines like this that roared across the corner of Woodson County through Neosho Falls and like the one that brought President Hayes to Neosho Falls in 1879.

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BRAMLETTE

When the Kansas, Missouri and Texas Railway (the Katy) was built across the northeast corner of Woodson County in 1870-71, the railway put in a small siding somewhere in the west half of section 34-24-17. On December 1, 1871, a post office was established here with Alan B. Russ as postmaster. The post office was given the name of Bramlette and believed to be named for T. E. Bramlette, who was a governor of Kentucky. The location of the siding was about a mile south of the present Piqua.

The next postmaster of Bramlette was B. F. Crabb, who also ran a general store. An ad appeared in the Woodson County Post, published at Neosho Falls, April 30, 1873, as follows:

"Bramlette Store—Dry Goods, groceries, boots and shoes at Humboldt prices, and all kinds of produce taken in exchange. B. F. Crabb, Bramlette, Kansas."

On June 21, 1873, the citizens of Bramlette and vicinity met at the Bramlette schoolhouse to organize a farmers club with the understanding it was to be turned into a grange as soon as practical. It is to be called Neosho Falls township Farmers Club. W. D. Kent, president; D. H. Henry, vice president; N. Kinney, secretary; and Mr. Finch, treasurer. B. J. Crabb was secretary pro-tem.

November 12, 1873, the Methodist Episcopal Conference was held at Bramlette. Church leaders from Pleasant View, Kalida, Cherry Creek, Bramlette, Neosho Falls and Anderson Settlement present. D. A. Perrin, pastor.

In a July 4, 1874 celebration at Defiance the Bramlette Grange with nearly forty teams with buggies and wagons loaded with "human freight" were in the procession or parade from the courthouse at Defiance to the grove along Owl Creek about a mile to the west.

In its heyday Bramlette seemed to be quite a lively town with a post office, depot, general store, school, M. E. Sunday School, a grange and perhaps a blacksmith shop. But it was short-lived. The post office was discontinued in October, 1874, while B. F. Crabb was postmaster.

When the new railroad, the St. Louis, Fort Scott and Western, now the Missouri Pacific, was built east and west through the county from Iola to Yates Center, it intersected the "Katy" railroad a mile north of Bramlette. Here a depot and section house was built and became Piqua.

The Bramlette school was District No. 27, and was moved to Piqua as that town was established. The last term of school at Bramlette was taught by W. G. McCormick in 1881.

We believe that the Bramlette schoolhouse was in the quarter section where the present Catholic Church is located.

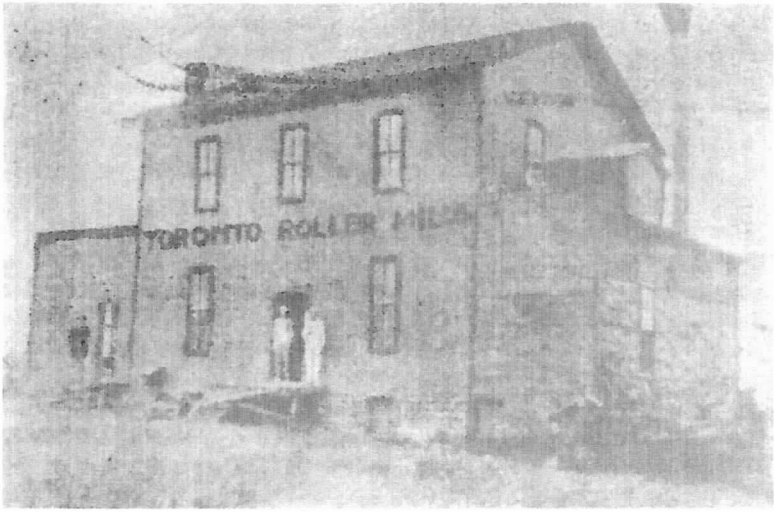
* * * * *

TORONTO ROLLER MILLS

A manufacturing enterprise that added greatly to the commercial value of Toronto was the Toronto Roller Mills that were erected during the winter of 1894-95, by W. P. Dickerson, with T. J. Dickerson as business manager. The mill was a two-story building, 28 by 60 feet. An engine room 14 by 24 feet, and a storage house 24 by 60 are additional buildings required to handle the business.

The flouring capacity was 50 barrels a day and the other grinding was 400 sacks or two carloads daily. The brands of flour milled here were known as the Gem Patent Pride of Toronto and Wild Rose.

The out-of-the-mill also included corn meal, feed, bran and other. Grain of all kinds were handled. Here farmers found a ready market for his grain at the prevailing price and could receive the manufactured goods or cash.



This mill was steam operated, with a 35 horse power engine and a steel tube boiler. It was located on a small stream in the southwest edge of Toronto. There evidently was a good spring on this stream that furnished water for the steam power. There was also a saw mill under the southeast corner of the mill.

George Cord came here from Canada and purchased a quarter section five miles north and a half east of Yates Center. Some of the merchants of Toronto had also come from Canada and had known Cord there and knew he was a flour miller. He was persuaded to come to Toronto and be head miller at the roller flour mill. He sold his farm and purchased property near the mill. This mill flourished for several years. The old mill was torn down, but some of the foundation may still be found.

* * * * *

THE HERDER FAMILY

A family or perhaps we should say several families that were well known over Woodson County, and especially in the New York Valley vicinity and around Yates Center were the Herder families.

Conrad Herder was born in Wurtenburg, Germany, Nov. 22, 1822. When he was thirty years old he came to America, stopping at Brooklyn, New York. This was in 1852.

Anna Christian Bayer was born at Hanover, Germany, in January 25, 1828. In 1845 when she was seventeen years old she also came to Brooklyn, N. Y.

On November 5, 1857, Conrad Herder and Anna Bayer were married in Brooklyn. They moved to Hartford Connecticut. Here their four oldest children were born: Henry W., John Conrad, Anna M., and Edward F. After around ten years living in Connecticut, they decided to come to Kansas.

Conrad Herder obtained a patent from the United States government for the north half of the southwest quarter of section 26-25-16. Here a small frame cabin was built. Later another eighty acres were added to the original homestead. The lumber for the cabin was hauled from Neosho Falls. While the cabin was being built the Herders stayed at the home of Mrs. Herder's brother, John H. Bayer, who had settled on a farm along Owl Creek about 1865.

The children of Conrad and Anna Herder and their families were: Henry W. Herder, born July 27, 1858, at Hartford, Conn., came to Kansas with his parents in 1868. He grew up in the New York Valley community, was a member (charter) of the New York Valley Church of God. On October 6, 1885, he was married to Caroline Smith. They were the parents of five daughters; namely, Elma (Mrs. C. D. Shotts); Nelle, who married C. H. Hanson—after his death she married Coleman Swope; Alta, who married John M. Harding; Mary, who married Harold M. Culver, and Mildred, who married Earl M. Hiestand.

John Conrad Herder was born at Hartford, Conn., June 26, 1861, coming to Kansas with his parents. The New York Valley vicinity was his home for most of his 88 years. John C. was married to Henrietta Louise Englebrecht on February 27, 1886. They farmed in the "Valley" for many years. He was also a member of the New York Valley Church of God. Their children were: Edna, who married Henry Timm; Jessie, who became Mrs. Peter Smith; Ruby Herder, and Myrtle, who married Berle Young.

Anna M. Herder, was born at Hartford, Conn., Sept. 24, 1864. When about five years old she came to Kansas with her parents. On February 3, 1881, she was married to Henry J. Smith. They first settled on a farm about two miles south and one mile east of the New York Valley school. Later they moved to the farm just across the road east from the school. They were married by Justice J. A. Freer, who also lived in the New York Valley vicinity. Their children were: Laura

M., who married Henry Steffen; Charles E. Smith, Harry C. Smith, Clayton A. Smith; Louisa A., who was married to Ben Blandy, and Jennie M., who married Wayne Bowman. Anna was also a charter member of the New York Valley Church. She was 86 years old at the time of her death in 1950.

Edward F. Herder was born Sept. 26, 1886, at Hartford, Conn., and when about two years old came to Kansas with the Herder family. He grew up in the New York Valley community and was also one of the charter members of the New York Valley Church of God. In 1882 he was married to Elizabeth Grisier. They moved to Chanute about 1909. Their children were: Josie Ann (McCoy), Ethel Melvie (Cassteven); Blanche Maud (Gant), and Lester Roy Herder.

William W. Herder was the youngest of the children in this family and was born on the Herder homestead on January 25, 1871. It was on this farm that he spent the most of his life. He was married to Etta Pearl Beckett, March 15, 1895. They observed their 65th wedding anniversary in 1960. On October 31, 1960, William, or as he was more familiarly known as Billie, suddenly died as he was getting ready to take part in a Halloween parade.

The children of William and Etta Herder were: Charles, Nettie, (Mrs. Carey Randall), Arthur, Anna (Mrs. E. A. Reno), William, Bennett, Everett, Pauline (Mrs. Louis Carson), and Lloyd.

"Billie" Herder was very well known. After moving to Yates Center in 1958, he became caretaker at the 4H Community building. No parade around the square was complete without Mr. and Mrs. Herder in an old car decorated to suit his fancy. Like his brothers and sister he was an active member of the New York Valley Church of God.

Like most all pioneer families the Herders experienced many hardships and also many pleasant experiences. The Herder home was only about two miles down Owl Creek from the town of Definance. One of the tasks of the children was to walk to Definance carrying a basket of eggs which brought around 5 cents a dozen. They were traded for a few groceries that were carried home. On one occasion John C. Herder and his sister Anna were picking wild grapes along Owl Creek, when they heard some talking and singing in a language they didn't understand. They climbed up the tree and hid among the leaves and vines. A party of Indians soon came along, passing under the tree the two children were in. The Indians were talking and chanting one of their songs. Their camp was a short way up the creek.

Pictured are, seated—Anna M., Conrad Herder and wife, Anna, and William W. Back row—Henry W., Edward F., and John Conrad Herder.

THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE OF WOODSON COUNTY'S NEW COURTHOUSE

Wednesday, August 9, 1899, the corner stone of the new courthouse was laid under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity. Early in the morning of that day residents of Woodson and adjoining counties began to arrive and by noon between 2,000 and 3,000 visitors were within the gates of the city. Both the Missouri Pacific and Santa Fe railways ran excursions, and the trains were met by the local reception committee. At 1:30 p.m. the Masons formed in line and marched around the square to the northeast corner of the courthouse where the program of laying the corner stone was carried out. Acting Right Worshipful Grand Master J. H. Sticher was master of ceremonies. Following the opening address by Mr. Sticher was a song by the quartet, prayer by Rev. Cullison and then the treasurer of the Eastern Star deposited the box in the stone. This was followed by J. W. Depew, Deputy Grand Secretary, who read the contents of the box.

The stone was then placed in position by J. H. Brewster, contractor, Mr. Brown, headstone mason C. Huse, this being followed by solemn music by the choir. This was followed by an eloquent address from the orator of the day Hon. L. Stillwell, judge of the district court.

Articles placed in the corner stone were mostly of Masonic nature. Articles, manuscripts and publications, newspapers from Yates Center and Neosho Falls, and many other publications.

Judge Stillwell's address was of scholarly and historical nature and rather lengthy. He suggested the motto "Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You" be engraved on a stone or plaque. This engraving is near the south entrance to the courthouse.

Judge Stillwell told of the old courthouses of Woodson County. "I well remember the first time that I attended a sitting of the District Court in this county. It was at the November term, 1869. The county seat was then at Neosho Falls. Court was being held in a ramshackle two-story frame building, situated on the east side of the principal street running north and south through the village. The courtroom was in the second story of the building and one gained access to it by means of a flight of rickety stairs on the outside. The stairway was not an entire, solid structure, but was built on the ladder plan, with open steps. At intervals some of the steps were gone, and consequently where those gaps occurred, one had to ascend something after the fashion of a sailor climbing the main mast. The courtroom was small and stuffy, with the ceiling villianously low.

"No matting or carpet of any kind was on the floor, but in lieu thereof, it had a top dressing of about half an inch thick, of fresh, green timber saw dust. Scattered around were a number of improvised spittoons, consisting of wooden boxes, the contents of which had boiled over, and were trickling into the adjacent saw dust, coloring it a rich dark brown. Judge John R. Goodin was upon the bench, and

the case on trial was one entitled The Town of LeRoy against W.W.P. McConnell and N. S. Goss. It was an action of replevin, involving the right of possession to the printing press and materials used in printing a weekly newspaper, The Frontier Democrat, then published at Neosho Falls."

The majority of the above article about the laying of the corner stone and Judge Stillwell's address were taken from a special edition of the Woodson County Advocate, Yates Center, Friday, September 1, 1899.

The Yates Center News did not print a special edition, but used two different issues to print Judge Stillwell's address. In the September 1, 1899 issue we found: A number came from Fort Scott and Iola on the Pacific at 9:15; the Santa Fe Excursion at 11; two coach loads from Iola, Colony and Neosho Falls; coach load from Toronto; group came from Buffalo and Rose on the noon train.

The merchants sponsored a Carnival Parade. Following the dedication and address people went to the baseball park where the Iola nine and a team from the Bruce Lumber Co., of Kansas City, played ball. Jesse James, Jr., was captain of the Kansas City team and was called a fine player. Iola won the game 8 to 5.

This was a big day for Yates Center and the merchants of the town.

The stone for the building of the courthouse basement and foundation was quarried from a rock quarry about a mile north of Yates Center on the place now owned by Ben Jackson. Wm. Gepharte and Edward Veteto had the contract for furnishing the rock for the building. The rock was cut out with "plug and Feather" wedges, and was cut the right size with hammer and chisel. Veteto had two or three teams of horses that did the hauling. W. H. Jackson, who still lives in Yates Center, worked on the rock quarrying crew till the job was completed.

The September 1, 1899, issue of the News also told that "the brick wall of the courthouse is up high enough to show that it is going to be a handsomer building than was at first expected."

The corner stone was laid by "Gilead Lodge, No. 144" on the northeast corner of the building.

* * * * *

THE DRY CREEK VALLEY OF NORTH TOWNSHIP (Continued)—

It has been somewhere around 4400 years since the Biblical world became so sinful and full of wickedness that God resolved to destroy it. According to the book Genesis, Noah was around 600 years old when he built the Ark, and the great deluge came. Archaeologists claim that at that time there were roving bands of prehistoric Indians here in the Dry Creek Valley that evidently made camp in the rock shelter that is known as the Dry Creek Cave.

It was about May 15, 1858, that the first recorded visit to the cave was made. Robert Daly, who came to the Verdigris Valley in 1857, and followed up the Dry Creek Valley where he homesteaded. He sold his first homestead and built another log cabin on another quarter section up the creek that was known for many years as the Daly farm, as his son, Jeff Daly, lived there all of his life of over 80 years. But like many other early landmarks has been sold and will soon be unknown as a landmark.

Daly was on a hunting trip up the Dry Creek Valley when he came across a large overhanging rock that gave it the appearance of a cave. This cave is about 50 feet wide, 10 feet high and about 20 feet deep. In the mouth of the cave is a rock about nine feet long and six feet wide with a fairly flat surface that looks as if it might have at one time fallen from the roof of the cave.

Andreas History of Kansas, published in 1883, calls this a pre-historic cave and gives this account of the inscription rock: "On the surface of the rock are cut numerous figures of various sizes and shapes. Some of which are indescribable. No system or regularity was observed by the inscribers, but the incisions are scattered promiscuously, often overlapping, and interlacing each other, as if done more for pastime than for the purpose of leaving any record of events then occurring to be read by future generations. Some of the figures represent a human body, others part of the body as the head with a small hat on and marks down the chin, which may have been meant to represent a beard. One may be designed to represent a little idol, another a bird's foot, another looks like a capital "A", etc.

The History names the discoverer of the cave as Esquire Robert Daly. Information given this writer years ago on this article, in a way contridicts this history in that these figures and tracings were evidently put there for a purpose. These were Indian picture writing, the only written language most Indian tribes knew at that time. Robert Daly's work among the Indians enabled him to read these tracings and figures, each mark and figure having a meaning of its own. These tracings were evidently not all carved at one time, but at intervals as a band of Indians passed through here leaving some of the tracings as a message to a following band.

Quite a few of the tracings are still traceable although the rock has been criss-crossed with names and initials down through the years. Upon

close observation it can be seen that most of these figures are connected with a carved line. There is a figure of an animal and from the position of the legs, indicate it was supposed to be in a running position. A narrow line connects this with a boxlike figure evidently representing a house. Another line connects this boxlike figure with a long narrow figure that has several curves and marks into it.

Dr. James H. Howard, who was chief of the Archaeological Investigations in the Toronto Reservoir area who we tell more about later, describes the figure of the animal mentioned above in this manner. "It is incised in the rock and is apparently intended to represent a horse, since the tail is quite long. Below the head of the creature, which is square rather than elongated, there is a line through the neck. A bilobed arrow is incised above the horses back. The treatment of this horse reminds one of the representations of the mythical Underwater Panther in Plains and Woodland Indian song pictographs. Here such a line through the neck indicates the creature is emerging from beneath the earth." It is probable that these petroglyths are very old as it has been over 112 years since Daly discovered them and they were covered with dirt and moss at that time.

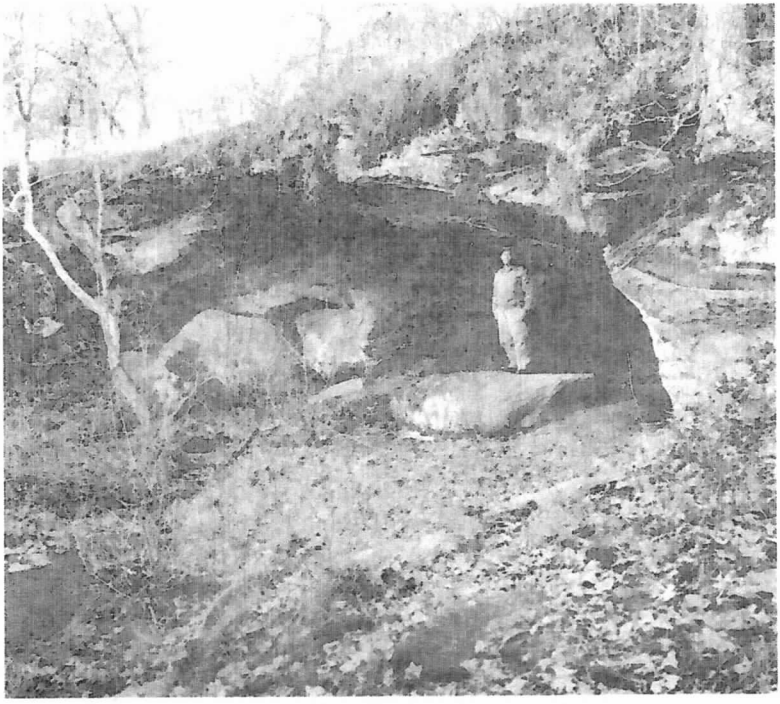
Excavation of the Floor of the Cave —

In the spring of 1957 a party of four men were sent to Woodson County by the Missouri River Basin Project of Lincoln, Nebr., which is a branch of the Smithsonian Institute of Washington, D.C. The party chief was Dr. James H. Howard and their purpose was to do research work and study for the Bureau of American Ethnology and were doing this work in the area that the Toronto Reservoir would cover. The weather and fields were very wet and muddy during the two months this group was here so they branched out to higher ground. The writter had written an article about this cave before this so Dr. Howard contacted the writer about that. Two days later a letter from Dr. Howard came telling that they had started excavation of the floor of the cave and requested that I come out while they were digging. Taking R. M. Phillips and Cecil Thompson, we went out to the cave. It was very interesting to watch these men work as they would dig for the Indian relics and bones that told them what the different tribes ate and how they lived. The men would uncover the top soil with a shovel, then stake off a "working claim" five feet square for each man and then start scraping with a small trowel resembling a brick trowel. Every inch of dirt was then scraped. In that manner most every piece of rock, flint, bone or pottery was found. The articles were placed in shipping bags each day and sent to their headquarters. Besides arrowheads, numerous tools of flint and bone were found.

It was very evident that whoever lived in this cave had a very unique system of housekeeping. The bone, broken pottery and burnt rocks seemingly were covered over by more soil or buried in the floor. There was evidence that about two feet of soil had been added or disturbed

over a period of hundreds of years. We asked Dr. Howard to tell or show us who he thought had occupied the cave over a period of years which he defined in this manner.

The top layer was left by pioneer cattlemen who lived at the cave, picnickers after the cave was discovered by Daly. Then the Pottawatomie and Sauk Indians, the Kansas and Osage Indians, then into prehistoric times with tribes of the upper Republican, Woodland, and the Early Hunters that went back to several thousand years B.C. The different tribes were identified by these men by the kind of flint and shape of the various arrowheads and tools they uncovered. According to Dr. Howard in his report of this cave, he believes that at least two, and perhaps three, components are represented at the site: Aksarben, Great Bend, and historic Indian. The first two are identified by ceramic materials (pottery).



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OLD RECORD BOOK OF LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

Several years ago an old book was given to the writer that we believe to be one of the first, if not the first, township record books of Liberty township, Woodson County. This not only takes in what is now Liberty township, but all of North, that at that time was known as West Liberty. One of the last treasurers whose name appeared in the book was that of J. H. Sturdivan, whose daughter, Mrs. J. L. Redick, had found the book among some old records and gave it to the writer several years ago. Some of the writing was faded, some leaves torn out, but we will try to relate some of the happenings in Liberty between the years of 1868 and 1878.

There were practically no roads in Liberty at the beginning of the record—only a few wagon trails. Most of the expense was for elections and in the latter part, "the warning and working of hands" to pay poll tax.

The first entry in the book is the report of Matthew Terrell, treasurer for the year 1869. The amount spent that year was $42.54 with a balance on hand of $33.04. The election judges for Liberty in 1868 were Joseph Miller, Asa Whitney and W. B. Stines. The clerks were J. M. Raber, E. E. Morgan and C. B. Graves.

Amount expended to I. W. Dow, commissioner, tax collected 1867, $9.94 and for 1868, $7.58.

During the year 1871, E. C. Rugh was township clerk, F. L. Arnold, trustee, and Matthew Terrell, treasurer. Road overseers were Dist. No. 1, J. H. Sturdivan; Dist. No. 2, John Light; Dist. No. 3, Henry A. Cook.

H. S. Trueblood was trustee from 1873 to 1877. His expense account for 1876 was as follows: Liberty township, December, 1876, to H. S. Trueblood:

Writing notice of changing election and posting same.

Notifying Jackson to open road;

Writing receipt;

Settling with road overseers;

Making report to commissioners;

Settling with treasurer and road overseers. (His bill for the year was $15.00 and was certified by Geo. W. Naylor, township clerk).

Later the township was divided into five districts with a road overseer in each district who not only put in bills for "warning and working out hand", but also for burning fire breaks and making guide boards. The wages for single hands was $2 per day and with self and team $4 per day.

The last entry made in this book was by W. B. Butler, (my grandfather), township clerk, on October 8, 1878.

Another item of interest in the old record book was the voting for bonds to support a railroad through the township. The closest railroad was the new railway at Neosho Falls—the Katy.

LIBERTY VOTES BOND FOR A RAILROAD THAT WAS NEVER BUILT

"To the Honorable Trustee, Treasurer and Clerk of Liberty Township in the county of Woodson and State of Kansas, we the undersigned citizens and voters of said township do hereby petition your honorable body to call an election in said township to vote on the question, Shall the township of Liberty in the county of Woodson and the State of Kansas issue and donate Ten Thousand Dollars in the bonds of said township to aid in the construction of the Paola and Fall River Railroad or any other railroad between the city of Garnett in Anderson County and the western line of Woodson County, Kansas to-wit:"

1. Said bonds shall be payable twenty years from date of issue with interest payable semi-annually at the rate of ten per cent per annum, principle and interest payable in the City of New York.

2. Said bonds to be delivered to said railroad company when they shall have completed the grading and masonry of said Paola and Fall River Railroad from a point near the City of Garnett, Anderson County, State of Kansas to the City of LeRoy, thence up the Valley of Turkey Creek through said Liberty township, Woodson County, Kansas.

3. Said bonds shall not be delivered to said Railroad Company unless the conditions above stated shall be complied with on or before the first day of January, 1875. Signed—Joseph Rose, Omar Whitney, Charles Weide, Sr., G. W. Naylor, Cyrus Rose, Gotfried Weide, Charles Weide, Jr., Wm. Rodgers, O. P. Augustine, John Light, L. Miller, David Askren, E. B. Morgan, Eligia Pollard, W. B. Butler, E. H. Gillet, H. C. Harris, Enoch McNewcome, John Wallace, Samuel Wallace, Samuel Naylor, J. U. Raber, W. B. Stines, Milton Hanna, F. L. Arnold, N. Chambers, J. H. Sturdivan, George Boutwell, Geo. Carpenter, Geo. Edington, J. R. Tobin.

A special election was held at the usual palce of holding elections therein on the 12th day of December, 1873. The returns were made to the Township board on the 13th day of December, 1873. The township board met at the house of James M. Baldwin on the 13th day of December, 1873, for the purpose of canvassing the returns of an election held in Liberty Township on the 12th day of December, 1873.

"We therefore declare that there were 89 votes cast at said election and that there were eighty-three votes for the donation and bonds and six votes against the donation and bonds. (Signed) F. L. Arnold, Twp. Clerk; H. S. Trueblood, Trustee; J. M. Baldwin, Treasurer.

Ten bonds each for $1,000 were issued on January 1, 1874 to the Paola and Fall River Railroad for aid in construction of said railroad. An account was allowed by the township board for the amount of $30.00 to a firm in St. Louis for lithographing of 12 bonds.

The first plans for this railroad through Woodson County had been from Neosho Falls to Toronto, but the issue of bonds in different townships seemed to be the drawback. The plans then were changed to

go from LeRoy southwest to the Turkey Creek Valley and follow this valley to the western part of the county.

The first article we find about this railroad is taken from the Woodson County Post, Neosho Falls of March 13, 1874, from some items under the heading of Byron: "Railroad told is coming again and this time they are running up the south side of Turkey Creek. Many depots have been built . . . in the air. "The company who have the Paola-Fall River railroad in charge at LeRoy are trying to get the bonds, intending to grade the road in April. Liberty is warned to be careful and hold the contract before they issue bonds, prior to the grading of the road through the township."

"Notice is given that the right-of-way commissioners appointed by the District Court to assess the damages and condemn right-of-way for the Paola-Fall River Railway Co., on Friday, May 29, 1874, and will continue from day to day till said assessment is completed." James Baldwin, David Askren and Gottfreid Weide, Commissioners."

These three men were all early day settlers and land owners from along upper Turkey Creek. The grading evidently was started near LeRoy, for two men in the Colma or Pleasant View vicinity, M. Carroll and Jesse Jackson worked on it, but received no pay for their work.

A couple of pages were torn from the old record book and no more mention of a railroad could be found. Evidently the plans and bonds of the Paola-Fall River Railroad did not materialize as no railroad was ever built up the Turkey Creek Valley, although the survey stakes were driven outlining the road.

As mentioned above, the first plans made for this railroad through Woodson County was to run from the intersection of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad at Neosho Falls to Toronto. ($175,000) in bonds were asked of the County Commissioners for this railroad. One provision was that—"sufficient guarantee shall be given for the establishment and maintenance of depots at not less than four palces in Woodson County. One of which shall be in the City of Neosho Falls, one at or near the crossing of Cherry Creek; one at or near the crossing of Middle Owl Creek; and one at or within one mile of Toronto.

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PATRONS OF THE WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John V. Glades Agency
Woodson County Co-op
State Exchange Bank
Street Abstract Co.
Schornick Oil Co.
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods
Leo W. Mills
Hi-Way Food Basket
Farmers Co-op, Piqua
Gaulding Oil Co.
Harry O. Ashley
Swope & Son Impl. Co.
H. R. Campbell & Sons
Furniture & Undertaking
Clyde Hill
Whelan Lumber Co.
Cantrell Buick-Pontiac
Paul C. Laidlaw
Krueger Cleaners
Gambles—Friendly Store
Rogers Bros. Garage
Mahon Motor Co.
Charles H. Carpenter
Newtex Manufacturing Co.
Yates Center Skelgas Service
J. C. Schnell
Wood-Perkins Dept. Store
Al's Jewelry
First National Bank—Toronto
Security Oil Co.
Blackjack Cattle Co.
Yates Center Elevator Co.
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor—Gen. Agent
Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Daly Western Supply
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency
Atkin Clinic
Dyer Chevrolet Co.
Henry E. Stephenson
Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Light Hardware
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Brown's Western Auto
Donald E. Ward
Wilma Mark
Milton Wrampe
E. E. Light
Yates Center News
Everybody's Grocery
Pringle Ranch—J.W. & J. Richard
The Virginian Hotel
Baker Rexall Drug Store
Smith Furniture & Funeral Home